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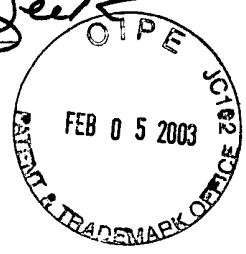
EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

Date 2/5/03 Label No. EV251493999-US

I hereby certify that, on the date indicated above, this paper or fee was deposited with the U.S. Postal Service & that it was addressed for delivery to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 by "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service.

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Customer No.:



07278

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Docket No: 2094/1E285US1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Kevin M. GORMAN, David R. PATTERSON, Jeffrey M. LINNEN and Keming SONG

Serial No.: 09/494,332 ✓

Art Unit: 1655

Confirmation No.: 3281

Filed: January 28, 2000

Examiner: J. GOLDBERG

For: OLIGONUCLEOTIDE PRIMERS FOR EFFICIENT MULTIPLEX DETECTION OF HEPATITIS C VIRUS (HCV) AND HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV) AND METHODS OF USE THEREOF

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Assistant Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Box PATENT EXTENSION
Washington, DC 20231

S I R:

This is a petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 to extend the time period for responding to the Office Action dated July 3, 2003 in the above-captioned patent application. Applicants respectfully request that the time period for reply be extended for a period of two months, from December 13, 2002 up to and including February 13, 2003.

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Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a), a check in the amount of **\$410.00** is enclosed to cover the estimated extension fee pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a). Please charge any deficiency in the required fee to our Deposit Account No. 04-0100.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 5, 2003

Samuel S. Woodley
Samuel S. Woodley, Ph.D.
(Reg. No. 43,287)
Agent for Applicants

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